

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A mobile terminal, comprising:
 - 2 a control unit;
 - 3 a display unit;
 - 4 an upper housing;
 - 5 a lower housing; and
 - 6 a 2-axis hinge unit for coupling the housings, wherein
 - 7 a part of said 2-axis hinge unit is exposed outside the
 - 8 terminal, and information input device is mounted in the exposed
 - 9 portion.

- 1 2. The terminal according to claim 1, wherein
2 the control unit controls the terminal according to an
3 operation of the information input device.

- 1 3. The terminal according to claim 1, wherein
2 the control unit assigns a predetermined function to the
3 information input device.

- 1 4. The terminal according to claim 1, wherein
2 the information input device is a pointing device.

- 1 5. The terminal according to claim 4, wherein
2 the control unit assigns another operating function to the
3 pointing device.

- 1 6. The terminal according to claim 4, wherein

2 the information input device further comprises a terminal
3 operating function.

1 7. The terminal according to claim 6, wherein
2 the terminal operating function is performed by a press.

1 8. The terminal according to claim 1, wherein
2 the information input device is a fingerprint sensor.

1 9. The terminal according to claim 8, wherein
2 the control unit can operate the terminal when the
3 fingerprint sensor detects a predetermined input.

1 10. The terminal according to claim 1, further comprising
2 position detection means for detecting relative positions
3 between the upper housing and the lower housing.

1 11. The terminal according to claim 10, wherein
2 the control unit controls the terminal based on an output
3 of the position detection means.

1 12. The terminal according to claim 11, wherein
2 the control unit controls an operation of the information
3 input device.

1 13. The terminal according to claim 10, wherein
2 the position detection means comprise a magnet and a magnetic
3 sensor.

1 14. The terminal according to claim 13, wherein
2 the magnet and the magnetic sensor are arranged in separate
3 housings.

1 15. The terminal according to claim 13, wherein
2 the magnetic sensor is a Hall element.

1 16. The terminal according to claim 10, wherein
2 the position detection means detect a turning direction
3 of the housings.

1 17. The terminal according to claim 16, wherein
2 the control unit controls the display unit based on the
3 turning direction of the housings.

1 18. The terminal according to claim 2, wherein
2 the control unit detects an operation of a predetermined
3 operation key to control an operation of the information input
4 device.

1 19. The terminal according to claim 18, wherein
2 the control unit controls an operation of the information
3 input device while a predetermined operation key is operated.

1 20. The terminal according to claim 1, comprising
2 a lock unit for locking said 2-axis hinge unit.

1 21. The terminal according to claim 20, wherein
2 the lock unit is controlled by an input from the information
3 input device.

1 22. The terminal according to claim 21, wherein
2 the information input device is a personal authentication
3 sensor; and
4 the lock unit is released when the sensor detects a
5 predetermined input.

1 23. The terminal according to claim 22, wherein
2 the personal authentication sensor is a fingerprint sensor.

1 24. The terminal according to claim 1, wherein
2 the terminal is a mobile telephone.